

Examination problems Conversational English

1. Challenges and achievements

<p><u>Key language:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To set achievable goals 2. To face challenges 3. To rise to the challenge 4. To make one's dream come true 5. ...couldn't have done it without... 6. A burning ambition 7. To have the right attitude 8. A daunting challenge 9. An ambitious person 10. To have limited opportunities 11. To head straight for the top 12. To pursue a dream 13. To face barriers 14. To have the potential to do sth 15. To persevere with sth 16. Mental/physical challenges 	<p><u>Additional language:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Passives, distancing:</i> It is widely believed...; He is said to be...; It's commonly assumed...; It appears/seems that...; It seems as if/though... 2. to influence the ambitions of the children 3. to deal with chauvinism 4. to believe in what you can achieve 5. to keep pushing someone to do sth 6. to deal with criticism 7. to start one's own business 8. It exceeded my expectations. 9. money pressures 10. to accept the financial burden 11. to be born with a forceful personality 12. a pressure cooker 13. to give sb a new lease of life
<p><u>Ideas:</u> Introduction: introducing the problem/problems. Facing challenges. Do you like a challenge? The most difficult challenge for you. Being in extreme situations in day-to-day life. Talking about your achievements. Conclusion: your meditations.</p>	<p><u>Materials and preparation:</u> p. 7, 12, 13. Burning ambitions, p. 14. Do you like a challenge? P. 18 Surf the internet!</p>

2. Language learning

<p><u>Key language:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To learn a language overnight 2. To achieve staggering feats of language learning 3. To seem superhuman 4. To pick up a language/new vocabulary quickly 5. To get nervous about garbling the language 6. To mix up languages 7. Information overload 8. Astonishing abilities 9. To babble unintelligibly 10. To pass with flying colours 11. To master a foreign language 12. To learn the basics of the language 13. <u>Phrasal verbs:</u> <i>to catch on; to turn up; to get by on 100\$ a week; to fit in; to do up; to fill in; to</i> 	<p><u>Additional language:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To let things/foreign languages slide 2. To stem from 3. To benefit from 4. To garble the words 5. To succeed in learning a language 6. To distinguish between related languages 7. To lack in vocabulary 8. To be riddled with errors 9. <u>Say how much you know/don't know:</u> <i>I know it like the back of my hand; I don't know offhand; I haven't a clue; I don't know off the top of my head; I'm pretty sure; I know it inside out; I haven't the faintest idea; I know next to nothing about it; It was a fantastic learning experience.</i>
--	---

<p><i>hold sb up; to carry out; to come across sb; to take to sth/sb; to see to sth; to get through sth; to come up with the idea of...; to keep up with...; to come down to...; to get away from one's daily routine; to stay on an extra week</i></p>	
<p><u>Ideas:</u> Introduction: introducing the problem/problems. Polyglots: benefits and drawbacks. Learning experience. Knowledge is power. Conclusion: your meditations.</p>	<p><u>Materials and preparation:</u> Great language learners, pp. 8–9, p. 10, 11 Surf the internet!</p>

3. A cosmopolitan city vs a community: pros and cons

<p><u>Key language:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonable cost of living Cosmopolitan A bustling city Good transport infrastructure To complain about transport infrastructure Personal freedom Efficient healthcare system High standard of living To be worried about the high crime rate High level of unemployment Traffic congestion Racial tension No-go areas Vibrant nightlife Run-down buildings/parts To live/stand side by side with... <i>Make recommendations about places:</i> It's a must; It's a must-see; It's good value for money; It's a bit overrated/overpriced; It's not all it's cracked up to be; I find it a bit dull/touristy; 	<p><u>Additional language:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A very strong sense of community Soulless city To hold onto old values To live cheek-by-jowl To help sb get on their feet To stock up on everything in a supermarket <i>Verb patterns:</i> to think of going..., can't afford to..., to imagine living..., to look forward to seeing sb, can/can't avoid offending..., don't mind looking after..., fancy eating..., can't stand shopping..., object to paying..., urge sb to visit, recommend going..., persuade sb to visit..., to encourage sb to try... Watch out for... One thing to be wary of is... It has stunning views To be off the beaten track To be unspoilt despite tourism <i>Introductory it:</i> It's no coincidence that...; It's a shame that...; It cannot be denied that...; It's no use...; It's no wonder people...; It seems strange...; It's essential that...
<p><u>Ideas:</u> Introduction: introducing the problem/problems. Pros and cons of living in a cosmopolitan city. Pros and cons of living in a community. Recommendations about places. Conclusion: your meditations.</p>	<p><u>Materials and preparation:</u> p. 21 My community, p. 22–24 Cali, p. 28–29. Surf the internet!</p>

4. A Wiki World

<p><u>Key language:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To read on the Internet A relatively new technology: a wiki 	<p><u>Additional language:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Comparatives:</i> It's miles easier...; It's nowhere near as...as...; It's nothing like as good as...; the
--	--

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The increased use of computers 4. To be vulnerable to hackers and computer viruses 5. To add an entry 6. To improve the quality of entries 7. To pool information 8. To use Wikipedia for research 9. To invent information 10. Academics 11. To compare the site to sth 12. Obscene comments 13. To lock the entry 14. To nose through the encyclopaedia 15. To surf the Internet 16. To have a massive impact 17. A contributor 18. To contribute to a website 	<p>more we..., the more we...; it's not quite as...as...; it's considerably quicker...; it's marginally more risky...; it's much the same; Much the best thing about it...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. high-flying professors 3. a perfect example of "crowd sourcing" 4. a bout of vandalism 5. to smear the opponent on Wikipedia 6. to set up sth longer-lasting 7. to breeze through life 8. a pooling of knowledge 9. to explode in popularity 10. to team up with universities 11. to need proof
<p><u>Ideas:</u> Introduction: introducing the problem/problems. The websites you frequently use. How far do you agree? Is computer a good thing? Wikipedia is the Internet's largest encyclopaedia. Conclusion: your meditations.</p>	<p><u>Materials and preparation:</u> p. 25 The Internet's largest encyclopaedia, p. 26–27 Surf the internet!</p>

5. Storytelling and reading

<p><u>Key language:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to be good at storytelling 2. to tell a white lie 3. to spread rumours 4. to be a bit of a gossip 5. an elaborate hoax 6. to be prone to exaggeration 7. to be good at making up stories 8. to listen to bedtime stories 9. to be a particularly rich field for hoaxes 10. to con people into thinking they... 11. Books: <i>to be an avid reader (a bookworm); can't put the book down; to be hooked; The story is gripping; It's based on a true story; to be very readable; the story is quite moving; the characters are one-dimensional</i> 	<p><u>Additional language:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To announce a great discovery 2. To involve fictitious people 3. Allegedly 4. Supposedly 5. Compound words: <i>single-minded; self-sufficient; thick-skinned; kind-hearted; stand-offish; career-orientated; level-headed; absent-minded</i> 6. Describing a person: <i>warm personality; to have a stormy relationship; to follow in his/her footsteps; to call the shots; to be in the firing line; to reach a crossroads; to receive a frosty reception; to feel under the weather; to have one's sights set on sth; to reach a dead end</i>
<p><u>Ideas:</u> Introduction: introducing the problem/problems. Addresser (storytelling) → addressee (reading) Are you good at storytelling? What makes a good storyteller? Books you would take to a desert island.</p>	<p><u>Materials and preparation:</u> p. 35, Hoaxes that fooled the world, p. 36 p. 39–40 p. 45 Surf the internet!</p>

Conclusion: your meditations.

6. Progress in our life

<p><u>Key language:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communications technology 2. To crash computer networks 3. To affect computer software 4. To be up-to-date with the latest technology 5. To own new gadgets 6. To recreate super powers artificially 7. To look into the possibility of doing sth 8. To achieve sth in the foreseeable future 9. To accelerate the world's progress 10. It paved the way for... 11. It's made a massive difference to... 12. We shouldn't underestimate... 13. It has had a huge impact on... 14. To raise funds to support research 15. To predict hereditary illnesses 16. A breakthrough in genetic engineering 17. To re-build damaged organs... 18. to gain access to a computer system 19. to outsmart the system 	<p><u>Additional language. Future probability.</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sure to happen</th> <th>Very likely to happen</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>It definitely will... ...will presumably... ...are bound to...</td> <td>It almost definitely will... There is a strong possibility... The chances are that... There is a distinct possibility that...</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Likely to happen</th> <th>Unlikely to happen</th> </tr> <tr> <td>It may/might well... There is every likelihood that... There is every chance that...</td> <td>There is a slight/remote possibility that... I doubt whether... It probably won't... The odds are against... It is doubtful that... There is a slim chance that... There is very little chance that... It is unlikely that...</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Impossible</th> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>You haven't a hope of... It is inconceivable that... ...stands no chance of... You don't stand a chance of...</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Sure to happen	Very likely to happen	It definitely will... ...will presumably... ...are bound to...	It almost definitely will... There is a strong possibility... The chances are that... There is a distinct possibility that...	Likely to happen	Unlikely to happen	It may/might well... There is every likelihood that... There is every chance that...	There is a slight/remote possibility that... I doubt whether... It probably won't... The odds are against... It is doubtful that... There is a slim chance that... There is very little chance that... It is unlikely that...	Impossible		You haven't a hope of... It is inconceivable that... ...stands no chance of... You don't stand a chance of...	
	Sure to happen	Very likely to happen												
	It definitely will... ...will presumably... ...are bound to...	It almost definitely will... There is a strong possibility... The chances are that... There is a distinct possibility that...												
	Likely to happen	Unlikely to happen												
	It may/might well... There is every likelihood that... There is every chance that...	There is a slight/remote possibility that... I doubt whether... It probably won't... The odds are against... It is doubtful that... There is a slim chance that... There is very little chance that... It is unlikely that...												
Impossible														
You haven't a hope of... It is inconceivable that... ...stands no chance of... You don't stand a chance of...														
<p><u>Ideas:</u></p> <p>Introduction: introducing the problem/problems.</p> <p>Are you a computer nerd?</p> <p>Discuss the role of innovations in our life.</p> <p>Conclusion: your meditations.</p>	<p><u>Materials and preparation:</u></p> <p>computer nerds and technophobes, p. 49, creating superpowers, p. 50–51, important discoveries and inventions, p. 60 Surf the internet!</p>													

7. Professional relationships

<p><u>Key language:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To keep in touch with sb 2. To be up to 3. To be at a loose end 4. To be snowed under 5. To have things lined up 6. To be tied up 7. To fall through 8. To go ahead 9. To get out of it 10. To call off 	<p><u>Additional language:</u></p> <p><i>Add imprecise or vague information</i></p> <p>Once in a blue moon from time to time more or less Loads of mistakes In an hour or so Bits and pieces That kind of thing Sort of / kind of In a way</p>
---	--

11. To wind down 12. To crop up 13. To put one's feet up	(number)-ish
<u>Ideas:</u> Introduction: introducing the problem/problems. Talk about professional relationships / arrangements. Conclusion: your meditations.	<u>Materials and preparation:</u> making arrangements, p. 53–55 Surf the internet!

8. Special abilities: gifted children

<u>Key language:</u> 1. Prodigy/genius/child prodigies/child geniuses 2. To demonstrate high reasoning ability 3. Adulation/admiration 4. Peers 5. Freak 6. Benefits and drawbacks of having a child prodigy in the family 7. To have a special gift for sth 8. A hotbed of sth 9. A toddler 10. It is nothing short of a miracle 11. To adopt complex strategies 12. To be a constant source of mystery to sb 13. To be showered with adulation 14. Overly demanding 15. Inheritability of intelligence 16. To be handed down through the generations 17. To master specific activities and skills 18. To be no better than average 19. A stimulating home environment 20. To take children on outings to museums	
<u>Ideas:</u> Introduction: introducing the problem/problems. Conclusion: your meditations.	<u>Materials and preparation:</u> How to make your child a genius, p. 56 p. 150, 154 Surf the internet!

9. Busy people in the busy world

<u>Key language:</u> 1. To come into a fortune 2. To earn a fortune 3. A rise 4. High-income families 5. Priceless 6. To be paid on commission 7. To go bankrupt 8. To launch a company	<u>Additional language:</u> 1. To haggle 2. The stock market 3. To break even 4. To bail sth out 5. To be in the least bit alarmed to 6. To turn over a new leaf 7. A sole owner / sole proprietor of a business
---	---

<p>9. To make a living 10. To be recruited on a voluntary basis 11. Hands-on work experience 12. Fringe benefit 13. A start-up phase/fund 14. An attractive job offer 15. The going gets tough 16. <u>Business partners</u>: 50–50 partners; family-owned business; to buy sb out of the business; a visionary; a strategic thinker; to understand the business model; an operations person; to roll up one’s sleeves; to execute the strategy; to strike the right balance between strategy and tactics. 17. To be crucial to the success of business 18. To socialize outside the office 19. To be committed to the long-term success of business</p>	<p>8. To choose a business partner 9. To stipulate 10. I cringe whenever I hear... 11. To be clueless about sth (selling) 12. A strong marketing background 13. Contract negotiation 14. Bookkeeping 15. To be better off hiring sb 16. To pull one’s punches 17. To do the right thing for your business 18. To hold back important information 19. To jeopardize the friendship 20. To hang around for the long haul 21. a life-changing event (to occur) 22. to acquire an interest in business 23. to warn against doing business with... 24.</p>
<p><u>Ideas</u>: Introduction: introducing the problem/problems. Starting up and starting over. Important elements of a successful business. Possibilities of starting your own business. What qualities would you bring to a business partnership? Business partners. Conclusion: your meditations.</p>	<p><u>Materials and preparation</u>: p. 63, Starting up and starting over, p. 64. Track 27.mp3. (CD1) + p. 66. Surf the internet!</p>

10. Generosity and philanthropy: personal vs. social phenomena

<p><u>Key language</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contented people 2. To give money to charity 3. Entrepreneurial spirit 4. To charge interest 5. To invest in sth 6. To dedicate billions/millions of dollars to projects 7. To fund programmes/ organizations 8. To make large donations 9. To promote welfare for sb 10. To amass a fortune 11. To recruit workers for business 12. 	<p><u>Additional language</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be in stark contrast to sth 2. To stay off sth 3. To eradicate child labour 4. Philanthropist 5. The benefit of the job 6.
<p><u>Ideas</u>: Introduction: introducing the problem/problems. Money, health, love, family: put them in order of importance, justify your choice. Giving money to charitable purposes. Helping people who are poor or in trouble. Conclusion: your meditations.</p>	<p><u>Materials and preparation</u>: Riches to rags, p. 67 Great philanthropists, p. 69 Surf the internet!</p>

11. Job satisfaction

<p><u>Key language:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Job satisfaction 2. Recognition 3. Good salary 4. Travel opportunities 5. Promotion prospects 6. Supportive colleagues / boss 7. Pension plan 8. Freedom / autonomy 9. Flexible working hours 10. (to believe in) professional / personal development 11. Perks and benefits 12. Working environment 13. Convenience of location 14. Challenging tasks 15. To allow workers to make decisions 16. To offer a comfortable workplace 17. To offers sth above and beyond the norm 18. To give time off to do sth 19. Freedom to develop ideas 20. Paid sabbatical 21. To give business opportunities 22. Favorable / poor working conditions 23. 	<p><u>Additional language:</u></p> <p><u>Expressing priorities:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>My main priority is...</i> 2. <i>The essential thing for me is...</i> 3. <i>This is absolutely vital!</i> 4. <i>I couldn't do without...</i> 5. <i>I'm not really bothered / concerned about this.</i> 6. <i>This isn't a major priority.</i> 7. <i>I could do without....</i> 8. Important features of companies 9. A private company 10. To have great marketing strategies 11. To be well-positioned within... 12. Benefits to staff 13. To be paid overtime for.... 14. To dismiss a worker 15. To introduce a pay cap 16. To wear uniforms 17. To work flexi-time 18. <p><u>Sentence adverbials:</u> <i>to a certain extent, by and large, broadly speaking, surprisingly enough, seemingly, up to a point, looking back, fundamentally, with hindsight, essentially, believe it or not,</i></p>
<p><u>Ideas:</u> Introduction: introducing the problem/problems. Conclusion: your meditations.</p>	<p><u>Materials and preparation:</u> 100 best companies to work for, p. 70 Surf the internet!</p>